

Updated

PATENT  
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**MAMMALIAN IAP GENE FAMILY, PRIMERS, PROBES  
AND DETECTION METHODS**

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**Cross Reference to Related Applications**

*See* - This application is a continuation of U.S.S.N. 09/011,356, filed *U.S. Patent No. 6,656,704*, February 4, 1998 (now pending), which is a U.S. National Phase application of 10 PCT/IB/96/01022, filed August 5, 1996, and published in English under PCT article 21(2), which claims benefit from U.S.S.N. 08/576,956, filed December 22, 1995 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,156,535), which is a continuation-in-part of U.S.S.N. 08/511,485, filed August 4, 1995 (now U.S. Patent No. 5,919,912), all of which are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety.

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**Background of the Invention**

The invention relates to apoptosis.

There are two general ways by which cells die. The most easily 20 recognized way is by necrosis, which is usually caused by an injury that is severe enough to disrupt cellular homeostasis. Typically, the cell's osmotic pressure is disturbed and, consequently, the cell swells and then ruptures. When the cellular contents are spilled into the surrounding tissue space, an inflammatory response often ensues.

The second general way by which cells die is referred to as apoptosis, or 25 programmed cell death. Apoptosis often occurs so rapidly that it is difficult to detect. This may help to explain why the involvement of apoptosis in a wide spectrum of biological processes has only recently been recognized.